

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Amistad National Recreation Area

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: AMIS

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Amistad National Recreation Area will realize its mandated mission as prescribed in its enabling legislation to provide the best water based recreation facilities and educational opportunities possible to its visitors. Using the current and best available emerging technologies, business practices and through the collaborative and cooperative efforts of its friends groups and associations, local community, county, and state shareholders, we will provide an unexcelled visitor experience worthy of its resources.

Amistad National Recreation Area offers a diverse array of water- and land-based recreational opportunities, including fishing, boating, house boating, sailing, waterskiing, scuba diving, hunting, camping, hiking, wildlife observation, and horseback riding. Amistad offers waterfowl, upland bird, turkey, and deer hunting. Amistad National Recreation Area and the surrounding region are home to one of the most extensive concentrations of rock art and archeological sites in North America.

Amistad National Recreation Area has gained a reputation for being a world class Black Bass fishery, in large part due to nationally televised professional tournaments. This year we are on track for a 75% increase in visitation. Our infrastructure, especially boat launching, parking and comfort facilities have not kept pace with the demand of our visiting public. Infrastructure improvements to meet challenges of evolving technologies in communications, energy, and resource conservation and the public demand for recreational opportunities is a key component of our success.

Amistad National Recreation Area will construct a Visitor Center that will provide visitor services and support functions for Amistad National Recreation Area. The Visitor Center will provide interpretive exhibits and programs focusing on the prehistoric Lower Pecos people, whose presence in the area dates back over 12,000 years.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Alan W. Cox

Site: AMIS

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Amistad has only one partially-constructed hiking trail in the park that is two miles in length. The project would extend this trail an additional 12 miles. A loop section of the bike trail will be constructed to ADA standards. Fourteen modest interpretive wayside exhibits will be constructed at various points along the trail. The trail will provide a safe location for park visitors to ride their bicycles. Park visitors are currently forced to ride their bikes along paved roads where there is a risk of them being struck by a passing vehicle. The trail is also intended to be available for hiking, walking, horseback riding, families, and school groups. The trail will make large sections of the park easily available to the park visitor, where currently a similar hike would involve thrashing through brush and cactus. The trail will also fill a sorely missing aspect of the park, where we are lacking in quality hiking trails. We currently have two ¼ mile nature trails, and one partially-completed two mile hiking trail. This trail will extend our two mile trail to a fourteen mile trail.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: AMIS

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The KEY Project engages 4th through 6th grade students from the San Felipe-Del Rio CISD (SFDRCSID) in the cultural and natural history of the Lower Pecos River Region, which includes AMIS. Through a partnership between AMIS, Shumla School, and Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site (SCSP), KEY involves an educational field trip to each location, in-classroom visits by AMIS educators, and an annual two-day Archeology Fair.

- Scientists of the Lower Pecos - 4th grade: Students travel to Shumla School to participate in hands-on activities that teach science within the framework of outdoor, environmental, and heritage education. Prior to the trip to Shumla, AMIS educators provide in-classroom instruction about the cultural and natural history of the region.

- Lessons on the Lake - 5th grade: Students board a houseboat provided by Forever Resorts for a program conducted on Lake Amistad by AMIS and the Shumla School. This houseboat field trip focuses on the geology, wildlife, and archeology of AMIS.

- Seminole Canyon Explorers - 6th grade: Students travel to Seminole Canyon State Park for a full day of educational activities led by Shumla School and AMIS instructors.

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Site: AMIS

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

This project would provide the park with a floating facility on the surface of the lake to be used primarily for school group outdoor education activities, teacher education workshops, and public interpretive events. This new facility would have a solid continuous floor on which would be a 16 ft by 20 ft air conditioned building with laboratory components including science lab countertops and equipment, seating and tables as well as items needed for use by students engaged in an educational field trip. Bleachers would be located under the roof of this facility for group lectures. A sidewalk would be constructed leading to this floating facility and this sidewalk would comply with ADA standards.

This floating multi-use facility would also serve as a platform for black bass fishing tournament weigh-in activities, which have become a major visitor use activity at Amistad. It is felt by many experts that it would be beneficial to the survivability of the fish to have the weigh-in facility directly on the water.

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Site: AMIS

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

This project proposes to create a Lower Pecos Virtual Learning Center (LP Virtual Learning Center) at the nationally award-winning website Texas Beyond History (TBH) www.texasbeyondhistory.net. TBH is a public education service of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) at the University of Texas.

The goal of the LP Virtual Learning Center will be to share the world-class cultural resources of the Lower Pecos River Region, including the AMIS archeological collections housed at TARL, with the rest of the world via the Web. AMIS will work in partnership with TBH, TARL, Shumla School, and Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site (SCSP) to create sophisticated and comprehensive, online resources aimed at educating schoolchildren, their teachers and the wider public about the Lower Pecos. Each of these partners shares AMIS's goal of making the meaningful results of AMIS-funded research accessible to the public.

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